

March 24, 1975

CLERK: Read title to LB 118.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this bill, introduced by Senator Koch, would change the quorum requirements for city councils and cities of the first class from 2/3rds to a simple majority. The presentation on the bill, it was indicated that perhaps the quorum requirement in the bill would be changed. The language says "for any business". It was felt that to add the phrase "except as otherwise provided by law" could deal with other sections of the statutes where there might be a higher quorum required. It's just a clarifying amendment to make sure that this did not conflict with other statutes. I'd move for the adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I could wait until Senator Koch has gone through the bill if he'd like to do that.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: We haven't adopted the amendment yet have we?

PRESIDENT: Is there any further discussion on the amendment? The question is the adoption of the amendments to 113. Record your vote. Record Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. The amendment is adopted. Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body, the bill I think is adequately explained in the testimony that appears before the bill itself as it was before the committee. We find in city government, and I have served there, there are many cases where you are waiting for a 2/3 majority of a body to be present to carry on what we think is normally the business of the city council in the simplest way. What we're trying to provide here is the fact that there needs to be only a quorum necessary, which would be a majority of the body to proceed with the business as transacted by a city. I think it's good government and the reason that I have introduced this bill. Because I have sat with city government and many times you wait for that 2/3 body to be present and you're wasting time of the members who appeared there. We here in our operation normally operate with a quorum, as well, so I think cities should have that same opportunity.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.